(c) whether it is also a fact that Container Corporation of India Limited are likely to float tenders for earthwork in and around Bombay during the next six months and if so, what are the complete details thereof, with the value of each tender?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Only one contract for earthwork at New Mulund has been awarded during last one year. The contract has been awarded to M/s Thakur Construction. The value of the work is Rs. 5,50,000/- (Rupees five lakhs fifty thousand only).

(c) There is no such proposal for the present.

यात्री-किराए की वापसी में विलम्ब होने पर ब्याज का भुगतान करने के लिये उपभोक्ता न्यायालय का निर्देश

8084. **श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली में उपभोक्ता न्यायालय ने रेलवे को यह आदेश दिया है कि यदि रेलवे विभाग रेल किराए को दो सप्ताह के भीतर वापस करने में विफल रहता है तो उसे रेल-किराए की धनराशि पर ब्याज का भुगतान भी करना पड़ेगा ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) उन राज्यों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं जिनमें ये आदेश लागू होंगे ; और

(घ) उनका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ) (क) और (ख) दो अलग-अलग मामलों में, जिला उपभोक्ता न्यायालय ने रेलवे को, विलंब से धन वापसी पर ब्याज का भुगतान करने के आदेश दिए थे । लेकिन राज्य आयोग दिल्ली द्वारा इन आदेशों को रद्द कर दिया गया था ।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Gauge conversion of Mangalore-Arsikere and Bogalkot-Gadag rail lines

8085. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rapid pace of industrialisation of Mangalore in Karnataka with steel, refinery, petrochemical and thermal power plant projects coming up in a big way and if so, whether any plans have been mooted to convert the rail lines from, Mangalore-Arsikere and Bogalkot-Gadag, to broad gauge;

(b) whether the Centre has studied the techno-economic study for the gauge convension prepared by M/s. Jaiprakash Engg. & Steel Company Limited and its comments thereon; and

(c) whether the Railways would ensure that investors do not back out from such projects on the plea of inadequate rail linkage of Mangalore with coal and ore-mining areas?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. The Gauge Conversion of both the lines has been taken up.

(b) M/s. Jaiprakash Engg. & Steel Company Ltd. has since dropped the proposal.

(c) Adequate rail linkages wherever found necessary are being provided.

Expenditure on hiring aircrafts

8086. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Beechcraft was purchased by the Railways during the last year and if so, at what cost and what is the expenditure incurred so far and maintenance and operation of the said aircraft, upto the end of March, 1995;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Railways during the last three years on account of hiring of commercial aircrafts; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance was consulted before the purchase of the aircraft and if so, the details thereof; if not, what are the reasons therefor and at what level the decision for the purchase was taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. A Beechcraft aircraft was purchased by IRCON in May, 1994 at a cost of US$ 4.46 million (Rs. 14.05 crores). Its operations and maintenance cost upto the end of 31st March, 1995 has come to Rs. 2.39 crores.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways have independent budget which is vetted by a Financial Commissioner who is a representative of Ministry of Finance. The proposal for purchase of the aircraft was a new service/new instrument of service, for which approval of Parliament was obtained through a Supplementary Demand for Grants (1993-94) in August, '93. This is in accordance with the extant instructions issued by Ministry of Finance.

Provision of Coal Wagons at Talcher Coal Fields

8087. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aw are of frequent shut-downs at Rai chur Thermal Power Station due t erratic supply of coal from Singaren Colleries, attributed to poor linka despite prompt payment by RTPS t coal Companies|Railways;

(b) whether Government have re ceived any request from the Karna taka Government to provide adequ te coal wagons at Talcher Coa Fields for speedy movement to RTP in order to establish an alternat source of coal supply; and

(c) whether Government woul provide all rail movement of coa from Talcher to Raichur, to enabl the RTPS to function to its rate capacity?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a to (c) There has been no communi cation regarding shut down at Ra chur Thermal Power Station fo shortage of coal. Due to strike i Singareni coal fields since mid Apr '95 to first week of May '95 coal mo vement from Singareni Coal field was seriously affected. Railways moved larger quantities from WCL SECL and MCL Coalfields and ensur ed 100 per cent compliance durin April 95 and 90 per cent compliance in May 95. Input could not b stepped up further due to inabilit of the Power House to unload wagon expeditiously. It is Railways' endea vour to move coal as per linkage san ctioned by Standing Linkage Commit tee which also includes movemen from Talcher.

Non-reflection of Railways Reserve Funds in the Annual Accounts

8088. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Accumulated Depreciation Fund, Reserve Fund Revenue Reserve Fund, Developmen